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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/004,888	12/07/2001	Kazuyuki Sato	04329.2704	7604

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EXAMINER

ELAMIN, ABDELMONIEM I

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2116

DATE MAILED: 02/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/004,888

Applicant(s)

SATO, KAZUYUKI

Examiner

A Elamin

Art Unit

2116

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 15-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 15-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.
2. Claims 7, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Daddis et al, US. Pat. No. 6,806,972.
3. Claims 7, 15, Daddis teaches a hardware management apparatus comprising: first storage means [*non-volatile memory, col. 4, line 47*] for storing first management information [*col. 4, lines 47-48*] used to manage a state of hardware upon building a system [*col. 4, lines 45-47*]; second storage means, provided independently from said first storage means, for storing second management information indicating a current state of the hardware [*the new configuration has to be stored I a memory independent fro the first memory in order to compare it with the configuration stored in the non-volatile memory, see col. 4, lines 11-17*]; management information storage means for, when the state of the hardware is changed after the system was built, storing the second management information indicating the current state of the hardware in said second storage means [*col. 4, lines 11-17*]; and display means for displaying a changed state of the hardware on the basis of the first management information stored in said first storage

means, and the second management information stored in said second storage means [*col. 4, lines 17-21*].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Daddis et al, US. Pat. No. 6,806,972.

6. Claims 16, Daddis fails to teach the first and second memories store management information used to manage a mount state of a plurality of semiconductor components of an integrated circuit.

However, Examiner asserts that these types of limitations are considered field of use, and are not patentably distinct. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the system of Daddis to manage a mount state of a plurality of semiconductor components of an integrated circuit, because it allows the user to easily reconfigure the plurality of semiconductor components [*see Daddis, col. 2, lines 24-27*].

7. Claims 17, Daddis fails to teach the first and second memories store management information used to manage a mount state integrated circuits components on a circuit board.

However, Examiner asserts that these types of limitations are considered field of use, and are not patentably distinct. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the system of Daddis to manage a mount state of integrated circuit components on a circuit board, because it allows the user to easily reconfigure the integrated circuits [*see Daddis, col. 2, lines 24-27*].

8. Claims 18, Daddis fails to teach the first and second memories store management information used to manage a mount state of circuit boards.

However, Examiner asserts that these types of limitations are considered field of use, and are not patentably distinct. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the system of Daddis to manage a mount state of circuit boards, because it allows the user to easily reconfigure the circuit boards [*see Daddis, col. 2, lines 24-27*].

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

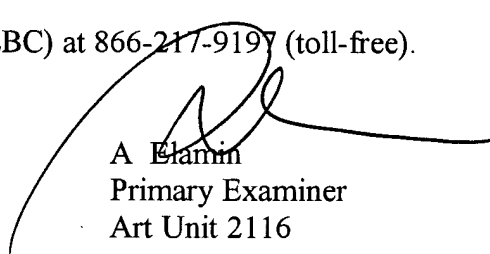
10. Claims 1-6 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to A Elamin whose telephone number is (571) 272-3674. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-FRI 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne can be reached on (571) 272-3670. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



A Elamin
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2116

January 31, 2006